



State of Missouri  
**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
 Intergovernmental Relations  
 Post Office Box 809  
 Jefferson City  
 65102  
 (573) 751-4834

**Bob Holden**  
 Governor

**Jacquelyn D. White**  
 Commissioner

**Missouri Commission on  
 Intergovernmental Cooperation**

## NEWS RELEASE

**MARCH 21, 2002**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GOVERNOR HOLDEN SAYS INCREASED  
 COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE AND  
 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IS KEY TO  
 COMMUNITY PROSPERITY**

**Contact Person:**  
**Ewell Lawson, Director**  
**OA Intergovernmental Relations**  
**573-751-4834**

**Jefferson City**—Governor Bob Holden Wednesday called for an increased multi-governmental collaborative effort to promote prosperous communities statewide. In a speech to members of the Missouri Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation, Holden urged the commission to seek cooperative ways for state and local government to assist Missouri communities to prosper.

“I want to ensure that Missouri’s communities prosper,” Holden said. “Communities – both large and small, urban and rural – face complicated issues related to economic development, job growth, rebuilding a rural farm economy, maintaining vibrant downtowns, transportation, water quality, affordable housing, historic preservation, and more.”

Throughout the day, the commission heard a series of short presentations on topics considered for further study over the next few months. Topics ranged from opportunities for local government investments to railroad grade crossing safety.

“Missourians all across the state should share in a high quality of life driven by local decisions,” said Holden. “I want Missouri communities to prosper and grow in ways that conserve resources and promote the economic and overall well-being of our citizens.”

The Missouri Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation, first established by executive order in 1985, is composed of five private citizen appointees, four legislators, six state cabinet members and representatives of a number of local government organizations, representing cities, counties, elected

-continued-

**MARCH 21, 2002**

**GOVERNOR HOLDEN SAYS INCREASED...**

**Page 2**

officials, city managers, regional planners and others. The Commission was re-authorized by Governor Bob Holden in September, 2001.

The Commission's duties include investigating issues and problems pertaining to state-local relations; serving as a vehicle of communication through which state and local government can meet to discuss and resolve shared existing and potential problems; reviewing and analyzing proposed legislation and regulatory changes that affect state and local government relations; and coordinating the provision of technical assistance to state and local government in a broad range of program and policy areas.

Topics presented during the day included:

- A presentation by the State Treasurer's Office concerning State Treasurer Nancy Farmer's proposal for local government investment pools which is pending in the current legislative session.
- A presentation by the Marion Ewing Kauffman Foundation describing their partnership with the Brookings Institute to study growth patterns in Missouri and expressed the hope that the Commission would study the Brookings report when it is released later this year.
- Gerry Wethington, the State's Chief Information Officer, described Missouri's e-government initiative and the desire to consider local government needs as this effort continues to move forward.
- A presentation by the Missouri Division of Motor Carrier and Railroad Safety about the need to foster state-local cooperation in further developing a fair and equitable process for addressing railroad crossing safety issues.

After the meeting, the newly appointed Commission Chairman Richard Cavender said: "Through cooperation, and Governor Holden's vision, I am confident that we can find ways to foster good governance and healthy communities all across the state." Cavender is Executive Director of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission.

Past commissions have worked toward resolving issues such as solid waste management, the transport and disposal of hazardous materials, regional jails, community information networks, and the creation of the Missouri Public Entity Risk Management fund (MOPERM). MOPERM is a self-insurance fund offering broad liability coverage at reasonable and stable cost to Missouri's local governments.